

18 JUL 1948

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GENERAL

1. Bevin believes CFM meeting on Italian colonies required--
UK Foreign Secretary Bevin has informally expressed to US Ambassador Douglas the view that the wording of the Italian peace treaty clearly calls for discussion of the disposal of the Italian colonies by the Council of Foreign Ministers unless all four members agree otherwise. Bevin believes that the USSR can be expected to press for a meeting and that it would be a mistake for the US and UK to attempt to evade it. Douglas expresses the opinion that Bevin can be persuaded to change his views only if US arguments on political grounds are strong.

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EUROPE

2. TRIESTE: Rival factions split Trieste Communist Party--
US Political Adviser Joyce reports that the Cominform attack on Tito has caused a "definite and clear split" along national-ist lines in the Trieste Communist Party as well as the Com-munist-dominated labor union and other mass organizations. Joyce believes that two rival parties will emerge and that the pro-Cominform group, which will receive support from the Italian Communist Party, will be stronger than the pro-Tito group supported by the Yugoslav Communist Party.

State Department review completed

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